

CS 091 Germany (27 Oct 61)

~~SECRET~~

13 November 1961

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for your letter of 27 October concerning the Berlin situation. I am deeply appreciative of the extent to which you have outlined the circumstances which arose as the result of the designation of General Clay as the President's personal representative in Berlin.

Unfortunately, there appears to be no paper in existence which more specifically outlines General Clay's mission and authority than the statement made by the President during his news conference on 30 August. Although I am sure you have read the statement, the item as carried by the NEW YORK TIMES on 31 August is inclosed for information.

The actions you have taken and your belief that the authority, command, control, and procedures to handle military probes and other such activities along the borders and outside West Berlin proper now appear to be clarified and understood by all. In this regard, I fully support your proposal that General Norstad or General Palmer take operational control of the United States Army in Berlin for the purposes outlined in your 26 October message to General Norstad (Heidelberg 3297) and your plan for combining the headquarters of USCOB and USBER.

Let us hope that in the days to come we may find an early and satisfactory solution to the over-all Berlin problem. Your letter has been very helpful, and I welcome your continued appraisal of the situation as it further develops.

I look forward with pleasure to your visit here later this month.

With warm regards and best wishes,

CC:  
R/R - o  
R/R - c  
Copy for SMAj Lethbridge

Sincerely,

G. H. DECKER  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

General Bruce C. Clarke  
Commander in Chief  
United States Army, Europe  
APO 403, New York, New York

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PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

PREPARED STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT APPOINTING GENERAL CLAY AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN BERLIN

" I am appointing General Lucius Clay to be my personal representative in Berlin with the rank of Ambassador. The situation in Berlin is a serious one, and I wish to have the advantage of having on the scene a person of General Clay's outstanding capacity and experience.

"While this appointment will not change the existing responsibilities of our military and diplomatic officers in Germany and Berlin, General Clay will be in close touch with such men as Ambassador (Walter C.) Dowling in Bonn and General Watson (Albert Watson, 2nd), our Berlin Commandant, and the appointment adds to our resources of judgment and action by placing in a most important city an American in whom the Secretary of State and I have unusual confidence.

"We are most grateful to General Clay for once again resuming his long career of public service. General Clay will take up his duties on Sept. 15, will proceed to Berlin, and will serve as long as this special arrangement seems desirable."

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